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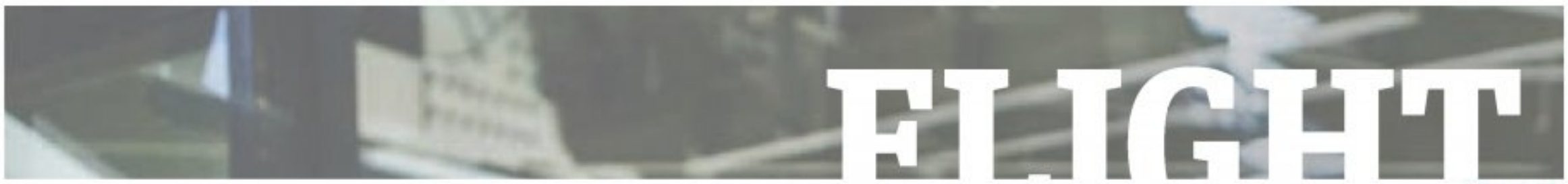
Patrons rally at The Palm before its closure. 4-5

BUTTERFLIES AND BLOOMS

Welcome spring with a visit to the Flower Show. 18

Cosby sex assault trial on hold. 6



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FLIGHT CONTROL

Take an exclusive, up close and personal look at Anthony Gioia, the man behind the show at every Flyers game. 20-21

MICHELLE GUSTAFSON

3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

OHIO SCHOOL SHOOTING SUSPECT DENIES CHARGES IN JUVENILE COURT

FACEBOOK

1 The 14-year-old suspect in a shooting at a southwestern Ohio high school that left four students wounded denied the charges against him on Tuesday, according to a juvenile court official. James Austin Hancock appeared in court with a lawyer for an arraignment hearing and entered a "not true" plea, equivalent to a not guilty plea, to two counts of attempted murder, two counts of felonious assault and one count each of inducing panic and making terroristic threats, Butler County Juvenile Justice Center Director Rob Clevenger said. Hancock was ordered to return to a juvenile detention center, where he has been held since Monday, when he was arrested after the incident in Middletown, about 38 miles north of Cincinnati, officials said. A pretrial hearing was set for April 5. REUTERS

PENTAGON TO TAP PRIVATE INDUSTRY FOR BACKGROUND CHECK

2 The U.S. Defense Department plans to hire private contractors to develop a $600-million-plus computer system for a new background check agency being set up after a security breach last year exposed the personal data of nearly 22 million people, a top official told Reuters. The Pentagon plans to meet companies and request proposals before Sept. 30, the end of fiscal year 2016, after finalizing requirements for a more flexible and adaptive replacement, said Richard Hale, the Pentagon's deputy chief information officer for cybersecurity. REUTERS

BIN LADEN DOCUMENTS SHOW A SUSPICIOUS, PRESSURED AL QAEDA

3 Al Qaeda's leaders were increasingly worried about spies in their midst, drones in the air and secret tracking devices reporting their movements as the U.S.-led war against them ground on, documents seized in the 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden's Pakistani hideout and reviewed by Reuters reveal. The cache of 113 documents, translated and declassified by U.S. intelligence agencies, are mostly dated between 2009 and 2011, intelligence officials said.
The documents — the second tranche from the raid to have been declassified since May 2015 — depict an Al Qaeda that was unwavering in its commitment to global jihad, but with its core leadership in Pakistan and Afghanistan under pressure on multiple fronts. REUTERS

Sam Bradford looks to pass against the New York Jets at MetLife Stadium. GETTY IMAGES

Bradford, Eagles finally reach deal

Sam Bradford signed a two-year deal worth $36 million Tuesday.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
evan.macy@metro.us

The Eagles announced Tuesday that they had finally signed Sam Bradford, inking the quarterback to a two-year deal worth $36 million. In the deal, $26 million will be guaranteed.

Bradford, who is essentially the Eagles 2016 second-round pick (due to the fact that he was traded for Nick Foles and the Birds second-rounder last spring), returns to the helm of an offense that was inconsistent last season.

Even missing several games with both a concussion and shoulder injury, Bradford, 28, threw for a career-high 3,725 yards, the fourth-highest yardage total in franchise history last season.

All during the winter, teammates and front office members, including Howie Roseman and Doug Pederson, voiced their desire to bring Bradford back, saying the ball was in his court.

"[Bradford] wanted to be in Philadelphia," a source close to the Bradford talks says via the Inquirer's Les Bowen.

The deal is a bit lower per season than the franchise tag designation, which would have cost the Eagles $19.9 million for one season.

It is widely expected that the Eagles will draft a quarterback to mold and train for the future.

Bradford won a Heisman Trophy with Oklahoma before winning a Rookie of the Year award with the Rams.

Adam Schefter, who broke the news, said there were also $4 million in incentives in the contract as well. The exact structure of the deal (and whether the Birds can cut him loose after one season) is not yet known. The deal came just before the 4 p.m. franchise tag deadline Tuesday.

The best (and worst) of Bradford

- Sam Bradford was the last No. 1 overall pick to sign before restructured rookie contracts, and will have made $114 million through 2017.
- Bradford started slow (in Chip Kelly's system) but finished 2015 strong, throwing for 1,959 yards and 10 touchdowns (a 99.1 QB rating) over his last six games.
- Bradford set team records last season in both completions (346) and completion percentage (65.0%).

"Look what he did the last half of the season and the numbers that he was able to put up. ... He's a quarterback that would fit perfectly into a system that I'm going to bring."

Doug Pederson, Eagles new head coach, on Bradford back in January

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The Palm to get

The restaurant is known for its caricature-covered walls.

JENNY DEHUFF
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On the day The Palm in Center City shuttered its doors for at least half a year, general manager Jim Haney said he had to wrestle steak knives out of three people's hands who tried to carve their own faces out of the walls of the iconic chophouse.

"Saturday night, there was a lady on a chair with a steak knife trying to carve her husband's picture off the wall," he said Monday night, the final night of The Palm as Philadelphia will remember it.

The Palm will undergo a major renovation in the coming months. For weeks, rumors had swirled that The Palm would not reopen – that the Bellevue Hotel, where it has been couched for almost three decades – was asking too much in rent, and that one of Center City's favorite restaurants would look elsewhere for occupancy, or close completely.

The Palm has been the destination spot for political powerhouses, lawyers, litigators and movers and shakers about town for almost 30 years.

Its walls are adorned with caricatures of smiling, familiar faces, many of which were drawn when the subjects had twice as much hair and half as many wrinkles.

Those who tend bar and wait tables are not promised jobs when The Palm reopens in the fourth quarter of 2016, or early 2017.

Palm Restaurant Group chief operating officer Jeff Phillips said the Philly branch will be the seventh in the company's portfolio to receive the new design.

The walls are decked with faces.

"Unfortunately due to the nature of the renovations, we're basically taking the restaurant back down to the slab,"

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"There's obviously some emotion, some history built up there, but at the end of the day, we want to be around for the long haul."

Palm Restaurant Group COO Jeff Phillips

said Phillips.

The new Palm will feature a hand-painted wall of Philly's famous landmarks overlooking the dining room. A new, expansive bar will serve as an anchor in the middle of the dining room. The private dining room will move from the second floor to the main level of the restaurant with seating for up to 36 and will include a state-of-the-art audio-video system.

Phillips said there will be a fresh, new array of signature caricatures produced by Zack Bird, the Philly artist whose family has crafted caricatures for Palm restaurants for decades. Folks will have the option to fall back on their old portraits or get new ones drafted.

"Some people want to keep their old photos 'cause, heck, everybody looked better 25 year ago," said Phillips.

Asked why The Palm would close before the Democratic National Convention comes to town with no set reopen date, Phillips said, "if we had waited until after the DNC and fixed it up afterwards, we probably would not have been open for the fourth quarter or the holidays, and that's much more lucrative than any week of the DNC."

"We want to be around for another 27 years. With a 90-year family-run business, you have to reinvent yourself," he said.

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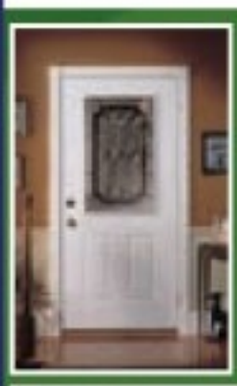

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BRIEF

AG: Central Pa. diocese covered up child abuse for decades

After a two-year investigation, Attorney General Kathleen Kane announced she discovered cases of hundreds of young victims being abused by priests in the Altoona-Johnstown Catholic diocese — but cannot bring criminal charges against any alleged predators.

The conduct by priests that Kane's office discovered was "monstrous," she said at a Tuesday morning press conference, where she announced that church leadership labored to protect abusive priests from consequences for their actions for years.

Allegations range from anal rape of teenage boys inside the rectory at St. Agnes Church in Lock Haven to a 16-year-old girl in foster care being sexually abused by a priest — and then being blamed for seducing the priest.

"Hundreds of children have fallen victim to child predators wrapped in the authority and the faith of those that they served," Kane said. "This abuse lasted for four decades. Not only was it covered up, priests were moved around ... to avoid further scandal." None of the allegations will lead to criminal charges, Kane said, due to "the deaths of alleged abusers, deeply traumatized victims being unable to testify in a court of law and the statute of limitations for the crimes being exhausted."

The grand jury report released by Kane's office delves into four decades of abuse allegations within the church, and recommends the state abolish the statute of limitations for sexual offenses against minors and suspend the civil statute of limitations on sexual abuse claims.

Kane pinned the blame for the coverup on former bishops James Hogan and Joseph Adamec. SAM NEWHOUSE

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Cosby GETTY IMAGES

Pa. appeals court puts hold on Cosby trial

Cosby, 78, faces charges of sexually assaulting a woman more than a decade ago.

A Pennsylvania appeals court ordered a temporary halt to the sexual assault case against comedian Bill Cosby on Tuesday pending its ruling on whether defense lawyers' appeal of a decision moving the case to trial can be quashed.

The order by the Pennsylvania Superior Court postpones a March 8 preliminary hearing in a suburban Philadelphia court where Cosby, 78, faces charges of sexually assaulting a woman more than a decade ago.

Cosby's attorneys had appealed a ruling by Common Pleas Court Judge Steven O'Neill in Norristown that dismissed the entertainer's claims that he had been granted immunity from prosecution in the case. Prosecutors had sought to quash the appeal.

Cosby's attorneys had asked the judge to toss the charges, contending that a deal reached with former Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce Castor spared their client from prosecution in exchange for a 2005 civil deposition.

In the deposition, Cosby admitted giving what he said was an anti-allergy drug to his alleged victim, Andrea Constand, before a sexual encounter that he described as consensual.

Constand, now 44, has said Cosby plied her with alcohol and drugs before raping her.

More than 50 women have accused Cosby, whose long career was based on family-friendly comedy, of sexually assaulting them in attacks dating back to the 1960s. Many of the incidents are too old to prosecute.

The Pennsylvania case is the only incident for which Cosby has been criminally charged. REUTERS

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Future of solar threatened in fight over gov. incentives

Energy makes up less than 1 percent of U.S. electricity generation in part because of its high cost compared with coal and natural gas.

Solar supporters counter that the costs of the traditional grid should fall with the rise of solar because utilities will eventually need fewer power plants and transmission lines. GETTY IMAGES

Two sun-drenched U.S. states have lately come to very different conclusions about a controversial solar power incentive essential to the industry's growth.

In California, regulators voted in January to preserve so-called net metering, which requires utilities to purchase surplus power generated by customers with rooftop solar panels. But neighboring Nevada scrapped the policy — prompting solar companies to flee the state.

The decisions foreshadow an intensifying national debate over public support that the rooftop solar industry says it can't live without.

"Without net metering, it just doesn't work," said Lyndon Rive, chief executive of top U.S. residential solar installer SolarCity Corp.

More than 25 of the 40 U.S. states with net metering policies are reconsidering them, according to the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center at North Carolina State University.

Opponents raise fairness concerns and argue the industry no longer needs big incentives, citing its rapid growth and solar panel prices that have fallen about 40 percent in five years.

Net metering credits solar users — at full retail rates — for any surplus power their panels generate above household usage. That means many customers pay no monthly utility bill — they can even rack up excess credits, which they can redeem later in months when their systems produce less power than their home uses.

For most customers, net metering and other incentives are essential to make solar power worth the steep upfront investment — between $17,000 and $24,000 for a typical system, according to data from research firm GTM Research. For systems that are leased, as most are, net metering creates a monthly savings over typical power costs. REUTERS

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Obama asks Republican leaders to offer top court nominees: White House

President Barack Obama asked Republican congressional leaders for suggestions on a Supreme Court nominee during a meeting on Tuesday, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said.

Obama met with Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, both Republicans, in the Oval Office to discuss a replacement for the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

"The president … gave everyone in the room, Democrats and Republicans, the opportunity to put forward their own suggestions for potential Supreme Court nominees," Earnest said at a news briefing. "The president didn't guarantee that he would choose that person, but the president did indicate that he would take seriously any recommendations that either Democrats or Republicans had to put forward."

Earnest declined to say whether any Republican congressional leaders, who have said the top court seat should remain vacant until Obama's successor takes office next year, offered any names. Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid and Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, the top Democrat on the judiciary panel, also attended the meeting.

REUTERS

Clockwise from front left: Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vermont; Senate Minority Leader Senator Harry Reid, D-Nevada; Vice President Joe Biden; President Barack Obama; Senate Majority Leader Senator Mitch McConnell. R-Kentucky; and Sen. Chuck Grassley R-Iowa, discuss the Supreme Court vacancy. GETTY IMAGES

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Now or never: Trump's 'wall' talk sparks migrant rush across US-Mexico border

Trump has built a strong lead in the race for the Republican nomination in part by taking a tough stance on immigration.

Lugging jugs of water, Mexican migrants thread their way along footpaths leading to the U.S. border. GETTY IMAGES

Gang violence and poverty have for years pushed Mexicans and Central Americans north to the United States, but recently a new driver has emerged: the anti-immigrant tone of leading Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

From the slums of Central America to close-knit migrant communities in U.S. cities, Trump's rise to the front of the Republican pack has not gone unnoticed and is partly behind a spike in the numbers of migrants trying to enter the country, including children traveling without guardians.

Interviews with migrants, people smugglers and officials show many migrants are trying to cross now instead of facing tighter policing and new policies to halt illegal immigration if Trump or another Republican wins the Nov. 8 election.

"If Trump wins, we're all screwed and all Latinos are screwed," Isaias Franco, a 46-year-old from El Salvador who was deported from the United States late last year and is now trying to get back, said at a migrant shelter in Ciudad Juarez, just across the border from El Paso, Texas.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection data shows 150,304 migrants were detained trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border between October and February, up 24 percent from the same period last year.

Similar data for "unaccompanied" child migrants — those traveling without a guardian — is not yet available, but between October and January, 20,455 kids were apprehended on the southwest border, up over 100 percent from a year ago.

The numbers of migrants typically rise as summer approaches.

Like other migrants, Franco is aware of the U.S. presidential race and Trump's vow, matched by fellow Republican candidate Ted Cruz, to deport all the illegal immigrants in the United States, estimated at more than 11 million.

"You watch the news …There's a lot of fear among Latinos," Franco said, adding that a Republican victory would spell the end for proposed reforms to give many immigrants greater legal security.

Hope Hicks, a spokeswoman for Trump, said migrants understand his policies. "It seems they agree Mr. Trump will be tough, build the wall and stop illegal immigration."

> *"They think they need to take advantage while they can."* Rivera

Blanca Rivera, who manages the Ciudad Juarez migrant shelter, said she had noticed a recent surge in the numbers of migrants and also blamed the inflammatory rhetoric. REUTERS

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UN to restart Syria peace talks March 9

A Syrian rebel fighter from the Failaq al-Rahman brigade takes a rest inside a building on the frontline against regime forces in the village of Bala, on the outskirts of the capital Damascus. GETTY IMAGES

The United Nations will delay the next round of Syria peace talks by two days to allow the cessation of hostilities in force since Saturday to take hold, U.N. Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura said.

International observers have acknowledged violations of the agreement intended to halt nearly five years of fighting while reporting that the level of violence has decreased considerably.

"We are delaying it to the afternoon of [March] 9 for logistical and technical reasons and also for the ceasefire to better settle down," de Mistura told Reuters on Tuesday. The talks had been penciled in for March 7.

The cessation of hostilities was "a glimmer of hope," Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said, although he accused the opposition of violating the agreement.

The opposition in turn says the Syrian government has breached the fragile truce by repeatedly attacking its positions, which the government denies.

"We will play our part to make the whole thing work," Assad told Germany's ARD television network, adding that the Syrian army had not reacted to truce violations in order to give the agreement a chance.

"The terrorists have breached the deal from the first day. We, as the Syrian army, are refraining from responding in order to give a chance to sustain the agreement. But in the end, there are limits and it all depends on the other side," Assad said.

The cessation of hostilities agreement, drawn up by the United States and Russia, is seen by the United Nations as an opportunity to revive peace talks which collapsed before they had even started a month ago in Geneva.

It also hopes the truce will allow humanitarian aid to be sent into besieged areas where many Syrians are living in dire conditions.

However, the opposition said it had yet to be officially informed of a new round of talks on March 9, insisting that no serious discussions can begin before detainees are freed and blockades are lifted.

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Eva Amurri doesn't have to worry about the nanny

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Eva Amurri, actress and daughter of Susan Sarandon, wants everyone to know how awesome and trustworthy her husband is. Like, such a good guy. She took to her blog — yes, she has a blog, and it's called Happily Eva After — to divulge the details of what she calls "Nannygate 2.0." But unlike other celebrity menfolk, her hubby, Kyle Martino, found the power to resist the siren call of the woman hired to watch the little ones. "This is even more nuts than you can imagine," she warns, launching into a tale about the replacement nanny they hired after she had to fire their first one. Amurri recounts that on her way back from a quick business trip to New York, Martino let her know some shocking news.

"'Don't panic,' he told me. 'But I had to fire the nanny this morning.'" The nanny, as it turns, out had "mistakenly" sent him a text addressed to a girlfriend about how much she wanted to sleep with him. "Too bad he seems not to like thick Latin women with lots to hold on to LOL," the nanny allegedly wrote. So he fired her. Seems reasonable.

the word

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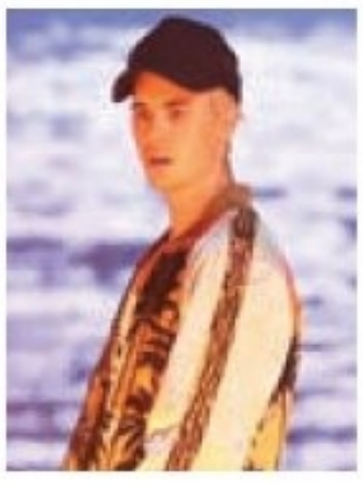
J.Lo hates Ben Affleck's new back tat

While Jennifer Garner has opted for the polite Southern-style put-down — "bless his heart" — in response to Ben Affleck's massive back tattoo of a phoenix, another of Affleck's exes isn't bothering with such niceties. When quizzed by "Watch What Happens Live" host Andy Cohen about her thoughts on the matter, Jennifer Lopez does not hold back. "It's awful! And I would tell him that," she insists. "'What are you doing?'" And it turns out her complaints aren't just relegated to his latest, most eyebrow-raising piece of dermatological illustration. No, she's got opinions — shady opinions — about his entire, ahem, body of work. "It has too many colors," she says. "His tattoos always have too many colors. They shouldn't be so colorful, you know what I mean? They should be cooler." Come on, Ben. Be cooler.

Justin Bieber buys a farm? Not so fast.



Justin Bieber is now a proud, all-grown-up 22-year-old, and if you believe things written on the McKenzie Post — which you shouldn't — he's ready to slow down a bit, move out to the country. In my favorite totally fake story of the week, the site made up an Us Weekly report about Bieber packing up his L.A. mansion and moving up to remote Sandy, Oregon. "I want a farm, I want cows, I want chickens!" Justin supposedly told Us Weekly with an excited laugh — which should have been your first clue that this is bogus. Bieber only ever offers forced, desperate laughs that hint at the existential turmoil gurgling beneath his vacant pop-star surface. "I'm not giving up my career, I just want to move to a place that feels so different than what I've been used the last several years of my life," they want you to believe he continued. "For me, that place is Sandy, Oregon." But hey, good news for residents of Sandy: He's not actually moving there.

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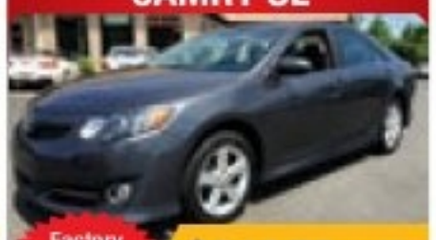

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Chiwetel Ejiofor learns how to shoot a gun

The Oscar-nominee talks about exploring humanity at its worst in "Triple 9."

MATT PRIGGE
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In "Triple 9," Chiwetel Ejiofor plays a mercenary-turned-thief in too deep with the Russian mafia, whose members include Gal Gadot, right. BOB MAHONEY, OPEN ROAD FILMS

Chiwetel Ejiofor has played villains before, including in "Four Brothers" and Joss Whedon's "Firefly" spinoff "Serenity." But he's never gone full-on tough guy before. In "Triple 9," he plays an ex-mercenary who's returned home and joined a gang of thieves forced to do bank heists at the behest of a Russian mafia head (played by Kate Winslet). The Oscar-nominated English actor, 38, had to get into a very bleak headspace — as well as learn how to shoot a big gun.

It seems every actor had an interesting research period. The ones playing cops went on wild ride-alongs. What was your prep?

Just shooting a lot of guns with Navy SEALs. I've done some gunplay in films, but not like this. I didn't grow up with guns, so I had to be like, "OK, this is what happens." They took me through it over several months and just did tactical training and shooting and getting to know these guys and their experiences and building a backstory for [my character] Michael. I just wondered what that looks like in the real world — somebody who is more at home robbing a bank than talking to the wife or their children. It's a fascinating jump-off point for a person. What are the experiences that led somebody down this road, this moral gray area?

Were you surprised while talking to the SEALs?

Any kind of normalized conversation that discusses how you kill people is weird. If you're not from that background, if you're not from that kind of world, it's constantly surprising because [to them] it's normal. You do start to feel that you have some insight into what the fog of war looks like. Then you wonder exactly that: What do you do with that skill set when you return back to the world, back to the States? Everything is sort of normal. Then you start to understand why these characters might exist — like why, if you're [my character] working with Blackwater or whatever, doing jobs for the Russian mafia might be appealing.

We don't like to talk to soldiers about their experiences and how it changed them, just like we don't like to talk to people who've done something horrible. We'd rather forget they exist.

I just rewatched that YouTube clip of those guys running over the Iraqi woman. What does that feel like? Not just the guy who committed the crime, but everybody else in there? All of them crossed the line that day. They don't get that back, morally, and you wonder what that feels like. What's the extent of that 10 years later — what your moral, ethical concepts are and how do those things change once you engage in stuff like that?

This is arguably the toughest character you've played. The character you play in "Serenity" is more evil, but he's almost gentle, rational about it, which makes him scarier.

The Operative was an extraordinary character to play just because of exactly that reason. I haven't seen in cinema a character that so clearly justifies the murder of children. There was no limit to that character. He was going to go all the way.

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'International Pop' provokes

The buzzy new exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum of Art is so much more than that "suggestive" ice cream piece.

SHAUN BRADY
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Who says pop art is dead? Anyone who thought the movement had lost its ability to provoke or scandalize over the last 50 years was proved very wrong earlier this month when a Philadelphia Museum of Art post was removed from Facebook for "suggestive content."

The image in question, Evelyne Axell's 1964 painting "Ice Cream," depicts the face of a woman sensually enjoying a brightly colored ice cream cone. The suggestiveness of that piece was enough to set off a minor social media frenzy, and it's hardly the most provocative work in the remarkable new exhibition "International Pop," which opened at the PMA on Feb. 24, for its only East Coast presentation.

The expected icons of the movement are present: Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein and Ed Ruscha are all represented. But as the name implies, "International Pop" takes a much broader perspective, including significant and varied takes on mass culture from Germany, Brazil, Japan, Argentina and elsewhere.

"It was truly an international movement," said PMA director and CEO Timothy Rub. "To fully understand the phenomenon in all its manifestations, you need to understand it from a global perspective. 'International Pop' presents a movement that emerged throughout eastern and western Europe, South America and East Asia, and in each region, artists responded to seismic shifts in their own social, cultural and political landscape and participated in a shared interest in images of common culture."

"Look Mickey" by Roy Lichtenstein, 1961 PROVIDED

Moving through the expansive show, viewers are treated to a barrage of color and image, politics clashing with pop culture, religion with politics, mass consumption with sexual innuendo.

Argentinean artist León Ferrari's "The Western, Christian Civilization" crucifies a plaster Christ on a model of an American bomber; nearby, visitors can kneel at a neon altar to Brazilian rock star Roberto Carlos. Later in the exhibition, a rack of Thomas Bayrle's plastic raincoats stands opposite Robert Watts' recreated produce stand, a pseudo-gift shop just preceding an actual one.

"Pop was a direct response to the visually rich image environment beginning in the 1950s, propelled by the likes of television, advertising, print media and magazines," said curator Erica Battle. But the movement, she added, differed depending on the artists' own circumstances.

"A young generation of artists celebrated, rejected, hijacked, subverted, ultimately reinvented pop for themselves."

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5 Reasons to visit the Flower Show

The showcase, Philly's unofficial start of spring, kicks off this weekend.

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If you've spent any considerable time around these parts, you know the Philadelphia Flower Show's deal: A gardening and design showcase dating back to 1829, it's an iconic part of the city's fabric, an unofficial opening ceremony to spring in the city. Maybe you've had your tickets for weeks. Maybe you're considering swinging by. Maybe you think this is the year you get out of it. (That's adorable — check with your mom before making other plans this weekend.) Either way, you're more than likely going. Here's why we're excited for this year's show.

1 Kid-friendly programming

Things have changed quite a bit since your grandmother dragged you around the perennial exhibits in the '80s. After hiking the Flower Show Trail, little ones can earn their Junior Ranger badges and attend an official swearing-in ceremony. On March 13, bring your own teddy bear for a pinkies-up family tea party (reservations required) and pay a visit to special guest Thomas the Tank Engine at the Railway Garden, a new attraction that includes large-scale model trains.

2 Morning tours

There's no way to sugarcoat this: During peak times, the Flower Show is an absolute madhouse. Do yourself a favor and visit on the off hours or, even better, reserve an early morning tour. Led by Flower Show experts before doors open to the general public, it's well-worth the splurge and will totally earn you favorite-child status.

3 Butterflies Live!

If you can get past the fact that butterflies are essentially zombie worm bugs, Butterflies Live! is a can't-miss educational opportunity for the whole family. Featuring more than 1,000 butterflies, the

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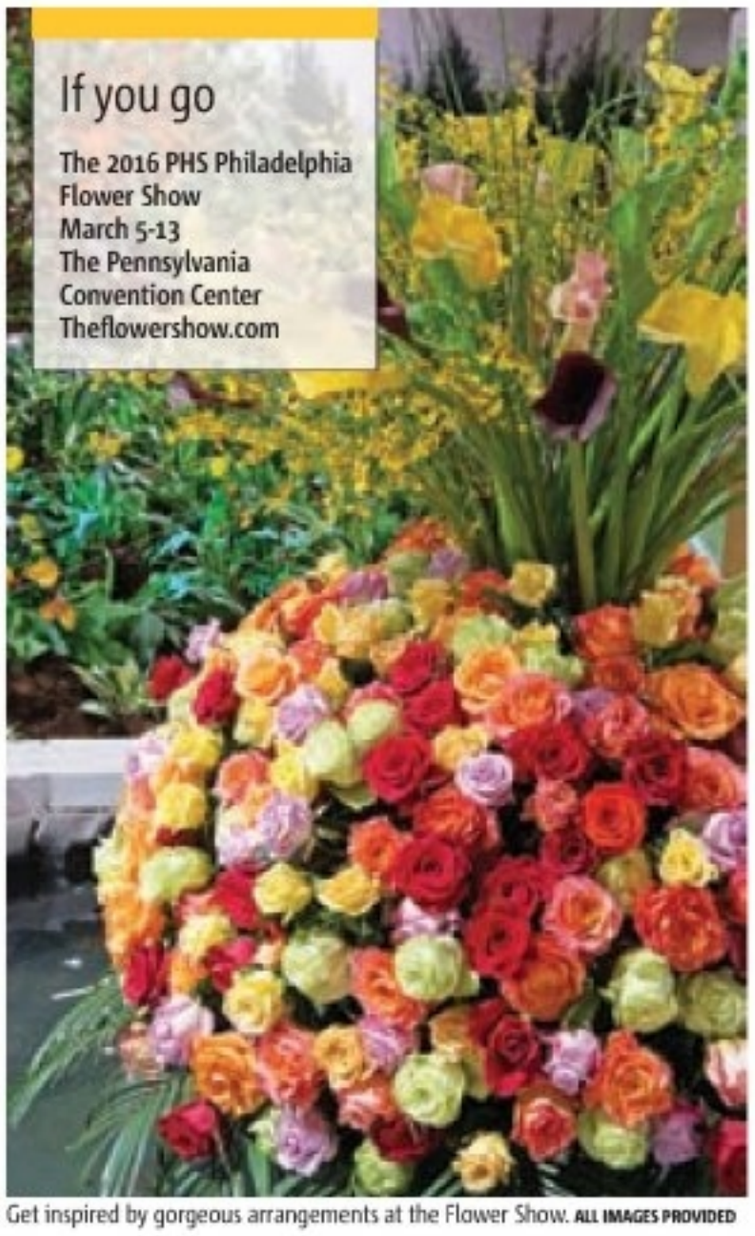

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March 5-13
The Pennsylvania Convention Center
Theflowershow.com

Get inspired by gorgeous arrangements at the Flower Show. ALL IMAGES PROVIDED

heated exhibit includes opportunities to feed and interact with 20 domestic and exotic species, many of which are endangered as natural habitats are destroyed.

4 The marketplace

Whether you just want a bouquet to take home or have some serious spring shopping to do, the Flower Show's marketplace is packed with local vendors offering everything from bulbs to plants, tools to trimmings. Before you pass it by, ask yourself this: Do you really want to visit Home Depot's nursery again? Think about those anemic impatiens before answering.

5 It's for a good cause

Proceeds from the Flower Show benefit the Philadelphia Horticultural Society and go right into improving our own backyard. Programs such as the Plant One Million tree campaign and City Harvest, which provides locally grown produce to families in need, are just two of its initiatives to make our city a more beautiful, healthy and enjoyable place to call home.

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Exclusive behind-the-scenes look inside Flyers control room

Meet Anthony Gioia, the man behind the entire Flyers entertainment experience.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
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sports@metro.us

Perched high above the ice in the corner of the balcony suite level, Anthony Gioia has a bird's-eye view of the entire Wells Fargo Center on Saturday during the Flyers matinee against the Coyotes.

A standard black director's stand with a three-ring binder full of notes and announcements sits directly in front of him. With a headset on, arms crossed and his right hand resting below his chin, he studies the action on the ice and takes the temperature – figuratively – of the building.

Sensing a minor lull early in the contest, he turns to his sound guy seated next to him and asks for the "Let's Go Flyers" chant to play on the video board as the game returns from a commercial break. The crowd responds – and so does the team.

Less than a minute later, Scott Laughton scores to put the Flyers up 1-0. Instead of pumping his fist or cheering, Gioia points again to his sound guy, who turns a key and presses a nondescript yellow button that triggers the loud horn played after a Flyers goal.

With the crowd barely quieting down from the goal celebration as the game resumes on the ensuing faceoff, he prompts public address announcer Lou Nolan over the headset to announce the goal scorer and assists, which brings the crowd back into a fury.

As the senior director of game presentation for the Flyers, Gioia is responsible for everything the 19,000-plus fans see and hear – and when they see or hear it – from the moment they walk through the turnstile to the minute they exit the building.

"When people come to a Flyers game, they have an expectation level," Gioia said during an interview in his office before the game. "When you work for the Flyers, there is an expectation level, too. That is something I was taught a long time ago, and we have to exceed it every game."

He has plenty of help, too.

Producer Artie Halstead oversees the control room, which is filled with a talented group and endless monitors, buttons and switches. Game presentation manager Corinne Yamada also has a heavy hand in the production.

Between the three of them and their team, the game presentation department runs a tight ship that delivers the ads, in-game and historical statistics on the arena vision, contests, music and much more.

"I like to call it controlled chaos," Gioia said.

There is a script, which is in his binder on the director's stand that he writes himself before each game and has to follow, but other than the ads that need to be displayed or read or other necessary announcements like starting lineups provided, Gioia changes it up constantly depending on the game's ebb and flow.

"We stay 100 percent focused on the tempo of the game, which I feel is the right way to direct a game," said Gioia, who joined the Flyers in 2007

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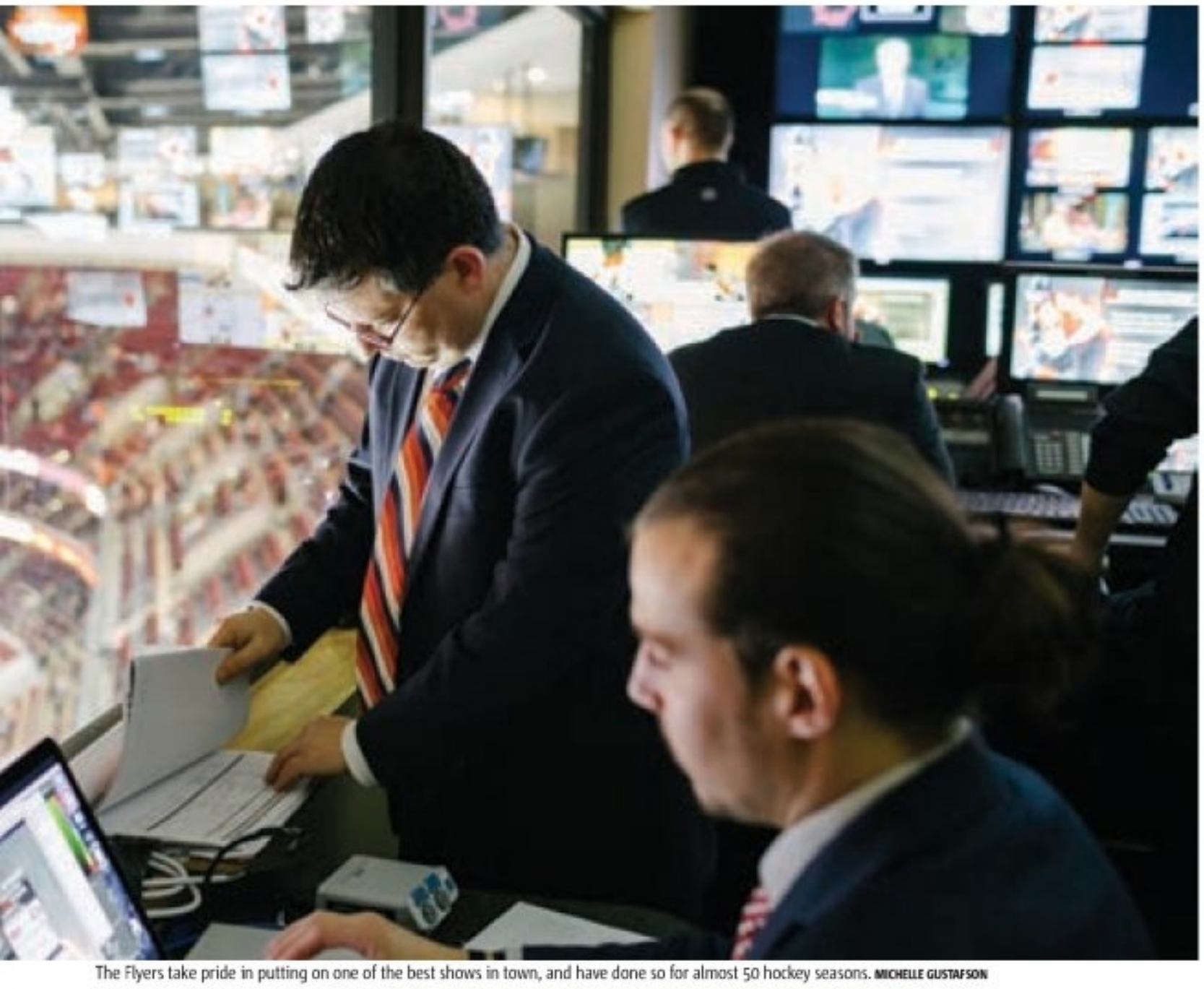

The Flyers take pride in putting on one of the best shows in town, and have done so for almost 50 hockey seasons. MICHELLE GUSTAFSON

after similar stints with the Carolina Hurricanes and New Jersey Devils. "Instead of having a tight [and strict] format, we are more flexible depending on the temp of the game. If we are winning, we do things to keep the crowd into it. If we are losing, I might tend to back off a bit."

The Flyers jumped out to a fast start and took 1-0 and 2-1 leads midway through the first period. The building was jumping and Gioia made sure he kept it that way with energetic music blasting and high-octane video highlights on the big board during breaks.

It's also why he wanted Nolan to quickly announce the goal scorers – to sustain that positive momentum in the arena.

"The best thing we do is we are as flexible as possible," Gioia said. "My crew has no idea what to expect. They have to be on the ball or they will miss a cue."

Gioia's responsibilities are not just limited to what fans see on the arena vision or video rings that wrap around the building, either. Everything fans might lay their eyes on in the entire arena falls under his umbrella.

Brayden Schenn netted his first career hat trick in a win Monday. GETTY IMAGES

Can Brayden Schenn save the Flyers?

It was not long ago that the Flyers' season hung in the balance. It looked like they were one more nail in the coffin from being dead.

With an uncertain trade deadline looming, the announcement that Jakub Voracek would be out for at least two weeks and a three-game deficit in the playoff race, the Flyers' hopes for 2015-16 were slim.

Brayden Schenn is stepping up at the perfect time and making sure the Flyers don't go down without a fight. But Philadelphia can't realistically rely on Schenn, who set a new career-high with 21 goals, to carry them on offense.

"I know I can make plays and produce with those guys," Schenn said. "Right now, I am just trying to do that. Tonight I was trying to get the puck to G's [Giroux] hands as much as possible, he was feeling it tonight. So you know, with the three of us, me him and Simmer [Simmonds], I feel like we got some pretty good chemistry. Me and Simmer just try and get the puck in his hands and go to the net."

It is why he takes a couple of laps around the main concourse before the game to make sure displays, signs, booths and even balloons reflect the team's long-established brand.

"The best thing about the Flyers is we have our identity and we know who we are – that is Mr. [Flyers Chairman Ed] Snider's vision," Gioia said. "I don't think we ever compare ourselves to anyone else.

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NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO INVOLUNTARILY TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE

In Re: Adoption of **Baby Boy Dodd** a/k/a **Austin James Beller,** a minor. No. 84565 of 2016 in the Orphans Court of Berks County, Pennsylvania

To: Ronnie, Ron, Tommie, Thomas, Ron Thomas, and any Unknown John Doe, or Anyone Claiming Paternity of **Baby Boy Dodd** a/k/a **Austin James Beller** born on October 2, 2015. The mother of said child is Elaine Dodd.

A Petition has been filed asking the Court to put an end to all rights you have to your child, Baby Boy Dodd a/k/a Austin James Beller. The Court has set a hearing to consider ending your rights to your child. That hearing will be held in the Courtroom designated for Senior Judge Arthur Grim, Berks County Courthouse, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601, on March 23, 2016 at 11:30 A.M. You have a right to attend the hearing. If you fail to attend the scheduled hearing, the Hearing will go on without you and the Court may end your rights to your child without your being present. You have a right to be represented at the Hearing by a lawyer. You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer, or cannot afford one, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help.

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TO: **Nick Snyder**
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

RE: Adoption of Baby Boy A aka DAN and Baby Boy B aka JWN, Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas, Orphans' Court Division

A petition has been filed asking the Court to put an end to all rights you have to your children Baby Boy A, DAN and Baby Boy B, JWN, born on July 23, 2015, biological children of Jamie Lynn Newcomb. The Court has set a hearing to consider ending your rights to your children. That hearing will be held on March 30, 2016 at 9:30 a.m., in Courtroom 6 of the Lackawanna County Courthouse, Third Floor, 200 North Washington Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503. You are warned that even if you fail to appear at the scheduled hearing, the hearing will go on without you and your rights to your children may be ended by the Court without your being present. You have a right to be represented at the hearing by a lawyer. You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer or cannot afford one, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help.

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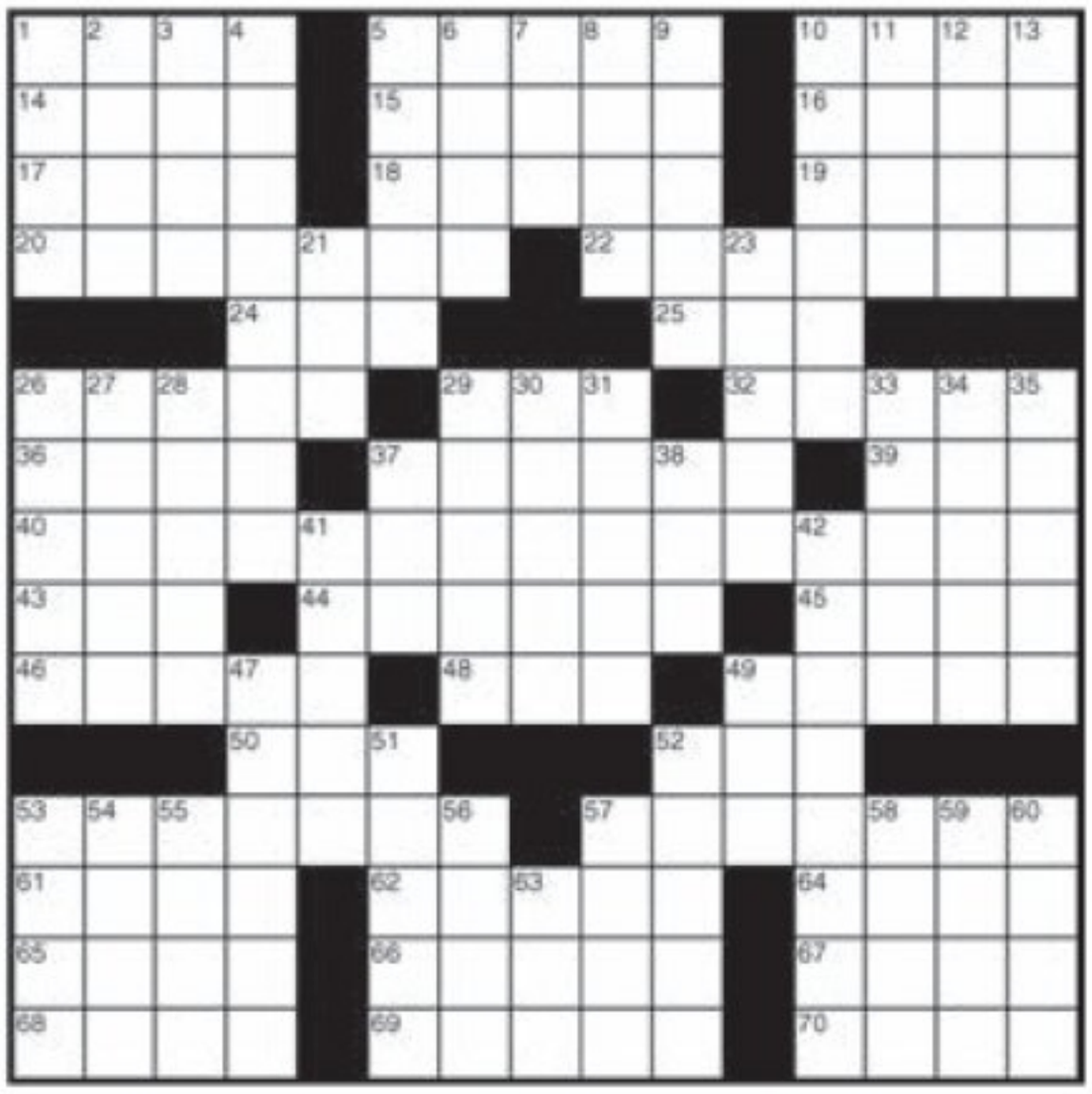

Across

1 On the house
5 Raw-fish delicacy
10 Dangerous shark
14 Cheryl or Alan
15 Tunes for divas
16 Anatomical passage
17 "Nova" anagram
18 Country estate
19 "Unfaithful" lead
20 Geishas' attire
22 Foams
24 King of Spain
25 Bunkhouse item
26 Gray rock
29 Vegas lead-in
32 Errors like thiss
36 Aloha State port
37 Germanic goddess of spring
39 — Dawn Chong
40 It's open at night (2 wds.)
43 — room (den)
44 Freed from frost
45 Had a mortgage
46 Come next
48 Harsh call
49 Too exacting
50 Kangaroo pouch
52 Pullet
53 Worldly
57 Food fish
61 Maintain
62 Gymnast's stickum
64 Pavlov or Lendl
65 Huff and puff
66 Made a decision
67 Former NBAer — Thurmond
68 Diligent insects
69 Hippie wear
70 Shimmer

Down

1 Strong opposition
2 Mr. Shankar
3 Ancient Dead Sea country
4 Ralph Kramden's pal (2 wds.)
5 "Stompin' at the –"
6 Novelist Leon —
7 Part of RSVP
8 Auditorium
9 Sir — Newton
10 Powerful
11 Fits to — —
12 "The Galloping Gourmet"
13 Mineral deposits
21 Once called
23 Aleut carving
26 Kipling's tiger — Khan
27 Perk up
28 Guinness et al.
29 Vulcan virtue
30 Humane org.
31 Scatter around
33 Where figureheads are
34 Camel halts
35 Like melons
37 Vane dir.
38 Disposed of
41 Just right
42 Math operation
47 Succeeds in a coup
49 Nourished
51 Imitation chocolate
52 Workers
53 Long story
54 John, in Wales
55 — la vie!
56 Hawser
57 Rushed off
58 Elliptical
59 Roman moralist
60 Had found out
63 RR stop

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easy

4	3	9				2		
1		6		5				
							8	6
3		8			5	4	2	
			9		7			
	1	2	3			7		5
5	2							
				1		5		8
		4				1	3	2

hard

5	9			3			7	
		8	9	1				4
		2			7			
		1	5				2	
9	5						3	1
	2				8	7		
			7			3		
1				8	9	5		
	8			6			1	2

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Aries Do something special for a loved one. Gather information and master anything that will help you bring positive input. A change will be just what the doctor ordered.

Taurus Learn as you go and practice what you preach. Avoid controversy and aim to be helpful instead of critical. Your decisions will affect others.

Gemini Nurture partnerships and strive to achieve. Don't take on burdens that don't belong to you. Love is on the rise and romance will promote a healthy relationship.

Cancer Be the first to make a move or decision that will bring about necessary change. Lead rather than follow in order to gain control, respect and unusual, surprising rewards.

Leo Socialize with your peers, but don't offer to pay for others. Make an impression by sharing your knowledge and offering solutions, not trying to buy favors.

Virgo Look for an odd way out of a sticky situation. Taking the road less traveled will help you avoid interference and criticism. Don't be afraid to be different.

Libra Join groups or participate in entertaining activities that will bring you into contact with people who can motivate you to make overdue changes. Romance is encouraged.

Scorpio Don't let anyone limit what you can do. Look for an alternative solution to a situation faced by someone depending on you. If you do so, you will receive a favor.

Sagittarius Stick close to home and make positive changes to your living quarters or arrangements. Don't give in to someone using emotional blackmail.

Capricorn Keeping everyone guessing will put you in a better position to negotiate, make your next move and get your way. A financial opportunity looks promising.

Aquarius Your uniqueness will give you the edge you need to outdo a competitor. Don't argue when you can let your success be your revenge. Do your best.

Pisces Keeping an open mind will help you figure out what you are dealing with. Understanding what someone is offering will lead to a favorable response. EUGENIA LAST

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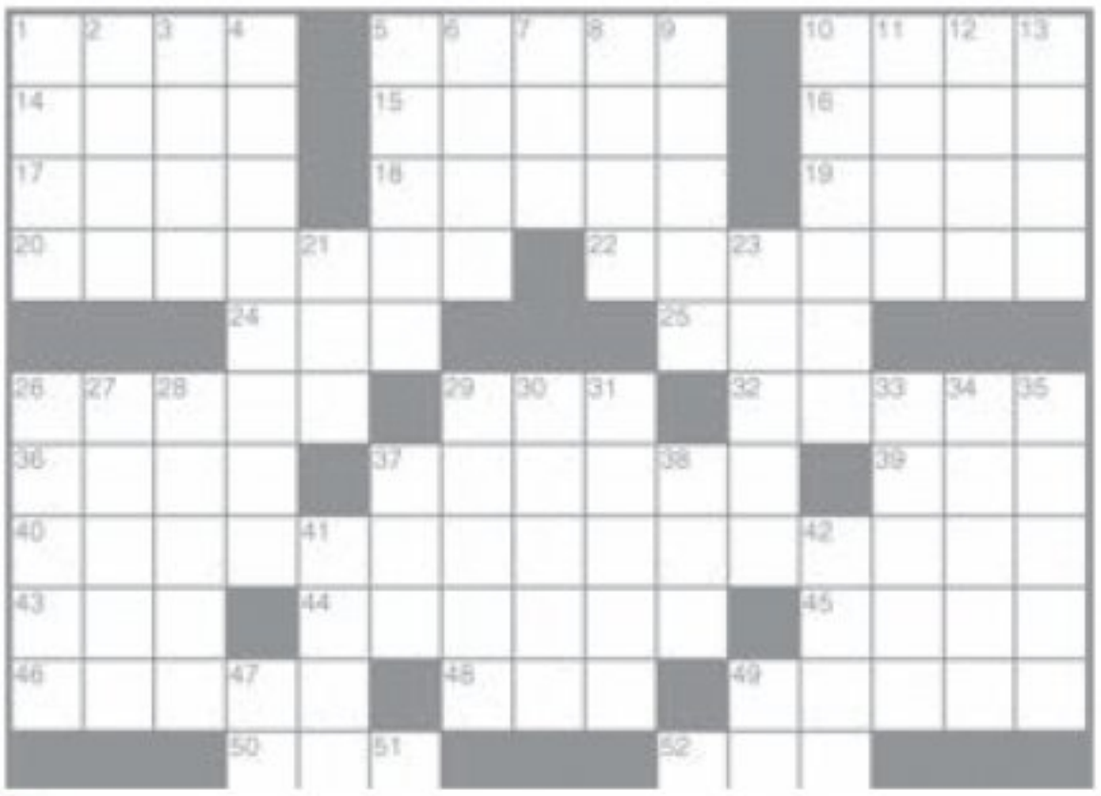

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